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PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

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Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing in the patent application of:

Richard G. Henry

For: Zero Volatile Organic Compound Compositions Based Upon Organic Solvents which are Negligibly Reactive with Hydroxyl Radical and do not Contribute Appreciably to the Formation of Ground Based Ozone

Enclosed are:

- [] sheets of drawing(s).
[] an assignment of an invention to _____
[] a certified copy of a _____ application.
[] associate power of attorney.
[xx] a small entity statement was previously filed with the Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the priority provisional application serial no. 60/053,073.

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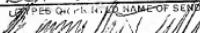
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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ZERO VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND COMPOSITIONS BASED UPON
ORGANIC SOLVENTS WHICH ARE NEGLIGIBLY REACTIVE WITH
HYDROXYL RADICAL AND DO NOT CONTRIBUTE APPRECIABLY TO
THE FORMATION OF GROUND BASED OZONE

Cross-Noting to Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/053,073, filed July 18, 1997.

Background of the Invention

5 This invention pertains to the art of solvent blends and solvent/resin blends. More, particularly this invention pertains to blends that do not contribute to the formation of ground based ozone or smog. The invention is particularly applicable to solvent blends and solvent/resin blends that have no volatile organic compounds for use with adhesives, coatings, inks, cleaning and blowing agents and the like and will be described with particular reference thereto. However, it will be appreciated that the invention may be advantageously employed in other environments and applications.

10 Heretofore, hydrocarbon-based solvents have been used to dissolve organic materials in many industrial applications. However, recently, hydrocarbon-based solvents have fallen out of favor because they have been classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other international regulatory bodies as materials that contribute to the formation of ground based ozone or smog. This has created a need for other types of solvents for the production of coatings, adhesives, inks and the like.

15 Upon evaporation, a highly-reactive, hydrocarbon-based solvent reacts with hydroxyl radicals and ultraviolet light very close to the ground to form a photochemical smog that is considered harmful and in some

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cases dangerous. Some cities have severe smog which reduces visibility and actually causes "ozone alerts". In part, the smog is caused by hydrocarbon emissions from cars. However, another major contributor is industrial use of hydrocarbon-based solvents such as hexane and toluene.

The benchmark for desired reaction rates of hydrocarbon-based compounds is ethane. If a compound has a reaction rate with the hydroxyl radical and ultraviolet ("UV") light that is faster than ethane, the compound reacts too close to the ground and consequently generates ozone and smog. Such compounds are defined as volatile organic compounds (VOCs). On the other hand, if a compound has a reaction rate that is slower than ethane, the compound reaches higher into the atmosphere before reacting with the hydroxyl radical and UV light. In such instances the non-VOC compound does not contribute to the formation of ground based ozone and smog.

Some of the more reactive VOCs are:

20 toluene;
 methyl ethyl ketone;
 diacetone alcohol;
 hexane;
 isopropyl alcohol;
25 pentane;
 dibasic esters;
 trichloroethylene;
 benzene;
 ethyl acetate;
 butyl acetate;
 n-methyl pyrrolidone;
 glycol ethers;
 d-limonene;
 terpene hydrocarbon solvents;
30 dimethyl ether; and,
 tetrahydrofuran.

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Governmental regulations limit the use of VOCs in coatings, inks, and adhesives. As a result, water-borne coatings have become the most important type of coatings in coating and adhesive systems. However, water-borne coatings must contain some volatile organic compound content. This is because water flashes off too fast from the water-based latex or emulsion to make a good film. To alleviate this problem, 7-10% of a slower evaporating solvent such as a glycol ether is added to the latex to aid in film formation. Unfortunately, glycol ethers are primary examples of VOCs and thus dangerous to the environment.

Halogenated hydrocarbon-based compounds have reaction rates that are slower than ethane. However, these halogenated compounds are ozone depleting. consequently, they are not suitable VOC-free solvents.

In the prior art, United States Patent No. 5,102,563 to Desbiendras describes a solvent composition which contains methyl tert butyl ether. However, methyl tert butyl ether is a VOC and thus unsafe for the environment. Similarly, Patent No. 4,898,893 to Ashida describes a composition for making a blowing agent which contains a flammable aliphatic hydrocarbon. This is also a VOC. Patent No. 3,950,185 to Toyama teaches film removing compositions which contain methylene chloride and bromochloromethane which are not VOCs. However, these compositions also contain methanol and monochlorobenzene which are VOCs. Patent No. 3,924,455 to Begishagen describes a formulation containing mineral spirits which removes lacquer stress coatings. These mineral spirits are also VOCs.

An object of the present invention is the identification of some high-performance solvents and solvent/resin blends which are non-flammable or self-extinguishing and do not contribute to the formation of ground-based ozone.

Another object of the present invention are
solvents and solvent/resin blends that are safer to the
environment than even water-based systems which still must
contain a volatile organic solvent to aid in film
formation.

Yet another object of the present invention are
environmentally-safer solvent compositions which do not
contribute to the formation of ground based ozone which
will be useful in the formulation of cleaning agents,
coatings, adhesives, inks and also blowing agents for the
production of plastic foams.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention contemplates new and
improved solvent and solvent-resin compositions which
overcome all of the above referenced problems and others
and which are economical and effective for their intended
uses.

In accordance with the present invention, there
is provided a solvent-resin composition having generally
zero volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The composition
consists essentially of a resin component and a solvent
component. The solvent component is 5-95% by total volume
of the solvent-resin composition and is one or more of the
zero-VOC solvents selected from the group consisting of:

chlorobromomethane;
1-bromopropane;
n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);
t-butyl acetate;
perchloroethylene;
benzotrifluoride;
parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
acetone;
1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane;
dimethoxymethane;

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1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-
butane;
5 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-
heptafluoropropane;
10 1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,4-
nonafluorobutane; and,
15 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-
heptafluoropropane.

In accordance with a more limited aspect of the invention, the solvent component is present in the amount 40-95% by total volume of the composition.

In accordance with a still more limited aspect of the invention, the solvent component is present in the amount 30%-80% by total volume of the composition.

15 A principal advantage of the invention is that it is environmentally safer yet still capable of effectively dissolving resins.

20 Another advantage of the invention is that it may be used in place of solvents currently used for inks, adhesives, coatings and the like.

Still other advantages and benefits of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading and understanding of the following detailed description.

25 Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The compositions of the present invention are high-performance solvent and solvent-resin blends that are generally free of VOCs. The compositions as herein described and as set forth in the claims are expressed in terms of percentages by volume unless clearly indicated to the contrary.

30 In describing the compositions of the present invention, reference will be made to certain resin classifications which require a totally VOC-free solvent system to be environmentally safe. These resin classifications are:

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- 5 a) acrylic-thermoplastic;
 b) acrylic-thermosetting;
 c) chlorinated rubber;
 d) epoxy (either one or two part);
 e) hydrocarbon (e.g., olefins, terpene-
 resins, rosin esters, coumarone-
 indene, styrene-butadiene, styrene,
 methyl-styrene, vinyl-toluene,
 nitrocellulose, polychloroprene,
 polyamide, polyvinyl chloride and
 isobutylene);
 f) phenolic;
 g) polyester and alkyd;
 h) polyurethane;
 i) silicone;
 j) urea; and,
 k) vinyl and vinyl acetate.

20 It is to be appreciated that this list does not include
 all resin classifications. Other resin classifications
 are intended to be encompassed by the scope of the present
 invention.

25 Effective solvents of the present invention
 which have reaction rates with hydroxyl ion slower than
 ethane are:

- 30 1) chlorobromomethane;
 2) 1-bromopropane;
 3) methyl acetate;
 4) n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);
 5) t-butyl acetate;
 6) perchloroethylene;
 7) benzotrifluoride;
 8) parachlorobenzotrifluoride
 9) acetone;
 10) 1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane
 11) dimethoxymethane;

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- 5 12) 1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-butane;
 13) 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
 14) 1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluorobutane;
 15) 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
 16) methylene chloride; and,
 17) technical white oils (mineral oils).

10 It is to be appreciated that this list does not include all effective non-VOC solvents. Other effective non-VOC solvents are intended to be encompassed by the scope of the present invention.

15 The type of specific applications (hence the denotation "a" alongside the number identifying the application) for which the solvents and solvent-resin blends of the present invention may be used are as follows:

- 20 1a) adhesives
 2a) blowing agents
 3a) coatings
 4a) cleaning compositions
 5a) inks

25 The zero-VOC solvent and solvent-resin blends of the present invention as well as their applications are set forth in the table below. The table uses the identifiers set out above, i.e., a numeral alone for the solvent and a numeral followed by "a" for the application.

30 SOLVENT AND SOLVENT-RESIN COMPOSITIONS HAVING ZERO VOCs

<u>MAIN COMPONENT</u>	<u>HOW USED</u> (blends are 5-95% or, more preferably, 40-95% by vol.)	<u>RESINS THAT FORM A FILM AFTER SOLVENT EVAPORATES</u>	<u>APPLICATIONS</u>
chlorobromomethane	by itself or blended with any of solvents 2-16 to obtain desired properties	a-k	1a-5a
1-bromopropane	by itself or blended with solvents 1, 3-16	a-k	1a, 3a, 5a
methyl acetate	blended with solvents 1,2, 4-16 at 10-95% by volume.	a-d, styrene, g, j, k	1a-5a
n-alkane (C12-C18)	by itself or blended with solvents 1-3,5-16	e	1a, 3a, 4a, 5a
t-butyl acetate	by itself or blended with solvents 1,4,6-16	a-d, styrene, g, j, k	1a, 3a, 4a, 5a
perchloroethylene	1-5,7-16	a-k	1a,3a,4a,5a
benzotrifluoride	1-6, 8-16	a-k	1a,3a,4a,5a
parachlorobenzotri fluoride	1-7, 9-16	a-k	1a,3a,4a,5a
acetone	1-5,7-16	a, b, e-h, k	1a-5a

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	1,2-dichloro- 1,1,2- trifluoroethane	1-9, 11-16	a, k	1a-5a
5	dimethoxymethane	1-3, 7-10, 12-16	a	1a-5a
	1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4- nonafluoro-4- methoxy-butane	1-11, 13,15	a	2a, 4a
	2- (difluoromethoxyme thy1)- 1,1,1,2,3,3,3- heptafluoropropane	1-12, 14,15	a	2a, 4a
10	1-ethoxy- 1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,4- nonafluorobutane	1-13, 15	a	2a,4a
	2- (ethoxydifluoromet hyl)- 1,1,1,2,3,3,3- heptafluoropropane	1-4	a	2a,4a
15	methylene chloride	2-15	a-k	1a-5a
	technical white oils (mineral)	1-16	a,e,g	5a
20				

A better understanding of the present invention
25 can be had by reference to the following descriptions of
embodiments which effectively meet the objectives outlined
above.

One preferred embodiment includes mixing one or
more of the polymeric resins:

30 acrylic-thermoplastic;
 acrylic-thermosetting;
 chlorinated rubber;
 epoxy resin;

hydrocarbon (e.g., olefins, terpene resins, rosin esters, coumarone-indene, styrene-butadiene, styrene, methyl-styrene, vinyl-toluene, nitrocelullose, polychloroprene, polyamide, polyvinyl chloride and isobutylene); phenolic; polyester and/or alkyd; polyurethane; silicone; urea; and/or vinyl or vinyl acetate,

with 10-90%, by total volume of the composition, of one or more of non-VOC solvents such as:

chlorobromomethane; 1-bromopropane; methyl acetate; n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈); t-butyl acetate; perchloroethylene; benzotrifluoride; parachlorobenzotrifluoride; acetone; 1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane; dimethoxymethane; and/or methylene chloride.

The individual solvents or blends thereof are added until all of the resin(s) is dissolved.

In an embodiment for coatings and/or adhesives, the mixture preferably has a high resin content, i.e., a resin content of 20%-60% by volume. In another embodiment for inks, the mixture preferably contains a lower concentration of the resin, i.e., 5%-30% by volume. In yet another embodiment, various pigments or additives are added to achieve a desired range of properties.

In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, 5-90% methyl acetate, by total volume of the

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composition, is added to 10-95% of a solvent or solvent blend selected from the group:

chlorobromomethane;

1-bromopropane;

5 n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);

t-butyl Acetate;

perchloroethylene;

benzotrifluoride;

parachlorobenzotrifluoride;

10 acetone;

1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane;

dimethoxymethane;

15 1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-

butane;

20 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;

1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluorobutane; and,

20 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane.

These formulations are used as a cleaning composition for the removal of hydrocarbon or ionic contaminates from circuit boards or in the formulation of coatings, inks, or adhesives. Of course, the formulations may be used for other applications as well.

The following enumerated embodiments have the ability to dissolve resins for the production of coatings, adhesives, and inks as well. In addition, the embodiments are equally useful as cleaning formulations. The ranges for the embodiments are expressed in % by volume of the total solvent-resin composition or, alternatively, the total solvent composition of an initially non-resin containing solvent, such as a cleaning composition. The embodiments are:

35 (1) 10-90% benzotrifluoride and 10-90% of one or more of the solvents:

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- (a) 1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-butane;
- (b) 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
- 5 (c) 1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluorobutane;
- (d) 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
- (e) perchloroethylene;
- 10 (f) 1-bromopropane;
- (g) acetone;
- (h) n-alkane (C12-C16);
- (i) t-butyl acetate (C12-C16); and,
- (j) parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
- 15 (2) 5-20% benzotrifluoride and 80-95% 1-bromopropane;
- (3) 10-90% acetone and 10-90% n-alkane (C12-C18);
- (4) 10-90% 1-bromopropane and 10-90% of one or more of:
- 20 (a) chlorobromomethane; and,
- (b) n-alkane (C12-C18);
- (5) 10-90% parachlorobenzotrifluoride and 10-90% of one or more of:
- 25 (a) 1-bromopropane;
- (b) chlorobromomethane;
- (c) t-butyl acetate; and,
- (d) n-alkane (C12-C18);
- (6) 10-90% 1,2-dichloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane and 10-90% of one or more of:
- 30 1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-butane;
- 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
- 1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluorobutane;
- and,
- 35 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
- 1-bromopropane

acetone;
benzotrifluoride; and,
methyl acetate.

Analogously, the following VOC-free embodiment
5 has the ability to dissolve resins for the production of
coatings, adhesives, and inks as well. In addition, the
embodiment is equally useful in cleaning formulations:

10-90% methylene chloride and 10-90% of one or
more of the following solvents:

10 chlorobromomethane;
1-bromopropane;
methyl acetate;
n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);
t-butyl acetate;
15 perchloroethylene;
benzotrifluoride;
parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
acetone;
1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane; and,
dimethoxymethane.
20

An added benefit to mixing methylene chloride with other
solvents is the reduction in the overall toxicity of
methylene chloride.

Other preferred solvent-resin compositions
25 include VOC-free solvents which have the ability to
dissolve resins for the production of coatings, adhesives,
and inks. The compositions include any of the above-
listed resins and the following solvent mixtures, which
are expressed in terms of % by volume of the solvent-resin
30 composition:

- (1) 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% n-alkane
(C₁₂-C₁₈);
- (2) 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% methyl
acetate;
- 35 (3) 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% t-butyl
acetate;

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- (4) 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% benzotrifluoride;
- (5) 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% acetone;
- (6) 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
- 5 (7) 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
- (8) 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% perchloroethylene;
- 10 (9) 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% methylene chloride; and,
- (10) 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% of a mixture of methylene chloride, acetone, t-butyl acetate, methyl acetate and perchloroethylene.
- 15 The following VOC-free embodiment, expressed in terms of % by volume of total composition, is useful as an environmentally-safer blowing agent composition for the production of polyurethane or isocyanurate foams:
- 99-99.98% 1,2-dichloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane and
- 20 0.01-0.5% alpha-methyl styrene to inhibit polymerization. In addition this embodiment has the ability to dissolve resins for the production of coatings, adhesives, and inks, and is useful in cleaning formulations.
- 25 Another embodiment useful as an environmentally-safer blowing agent composition is:
- 100 parts by weight polyether triol;
- 50 parts by weight toluene diisocyanate or toluene disocyanurate;
- 30 2 parts by weight water;
- 0.15 parts catalyst;
- 0.5-2 parts surfactant; and,
- 4-10 parts 1-bromopropane or chlorobromomethane.
- Still another embodiment useful as an
- 35 environmentally-safer blowing agent composition, in terms of percent by weight of the total composition (including catalyst and surfactant), is:

50-70% polyether triol;
20-40% toluene diisocyanate or toluene
disocyanurate;
0-10% water;
5 0-5% catalyst;
0-5% surfactant;
2-15% 1-bromopropane or chlorobromomethane. The appropriate catalysts and surfactants are selected from those known in the art.

10 A more limited embodiment useful as an environmentally-safer blowing agent composition, in terms of percent by weight of the total composition (including catalyst and surfactant), is:
60-65% polyether triol;
15 30-33% toluene diisocyanate or toluene disocyanurate;
1-2% water;
0.09-2% catalyst;
0.3-1.5% surfactant; and,
20 2.4-6.1% 1-bromopropane or chlorobromomethane.
This composition is useful for the manufacture of a flexible furniture grade foam with a density of 0.024 g/cm³. blowing agent.

25 An embodiment of a zero-VOC adhesive is 350 grams of 1-bromopropane and/or benzotriflouride to which is added 30-50% by weight of a hydrocarbon resin, preferably an olefin, rosin ester or terpene resin, which acts as a tackifier. Then, 100 grams of styrene-butadiene polymer, polychloroprene polymer, polyvinyl chloride polymer, acrylic, epoxy, urethane, nitrocellulose, or styrene is added to the mixture. This mixture produces a contact adhesive with excellent bond strength. Another preferred embodiment of this mixture contains approximately 40-90%, volume, of 1-bromopropane and/or benzotriflouride, 5-35% of a hydrocarbon resin, and 5-25% of styrene-butadiene polymer, polychloroprene polymer,

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polyvinyl chloride polymer, acrylic, epoxy, urethane, nitrocellulose, or styrene.

Another zero-VOC adhesive starts with 100 grams of 1-bromopropane and/or benzotrifluoride. Then, 10-100 grams of styrene-butadiene, polychloroprene, polyvinyl chloride, acrylic, epoxy, urethane, nitrocellulose, or styrene polymer or resin is added. This also produces a contact adhesive with excellent bond strength. It is appreciated that other additives may be used to improve wetting and defoaming although they are not always required. Another preferred embodiment of this mixture contains approximately 40-95%, by volume, of 1-bromopropane and/or benzotriflouride, and 5-60% of styrene-butadiene, polychloroprene, polyvinyl chloride, acrylic, epoxy, urethane, nitrocellulose, or styrene polymer or resin. Still another preferred embodiment of this mixture contains approximately 70-95%, by volume, of 1-bromopropane and/or benzotriflouride, and 5-30% of styrene-butadiene, polychloroprene, polyvinyl chloride, acrylic, epoxy, urethane, nitrocellulose, or styrene polymer or resin.

Still another embodiment of a zero-VOC adhesive starts with 350g 1-bromopropane and/or benzotriflouride. Then, 20-100 grams of styrene butadiene rubber is added. Optionally, 5-10%, by volume, acetone is added to improve solubility if necessary. Another preferred embodiment of this mixture contains approximately 50-90%, by volume, of 1-bromopropane, and 10-30% of acrylic polymer or urethane polymer. Optionally, 5-10%, by volume, acetone is added to improve solubility if necessary.

The following VOC-free embodiment has the ability to dissolve resins for the production of coatings, adhesives, and inks as well. Further, the solvent includes stabilizers to stabilize against attack on aluminum. In addition, the embodiment is useful in cleaning formulations:

70-90%, by volume, 1,2-dichloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane;

9-29% dimethoxymethane; and

5 0.5% butylene oxide and 0.5% nitromethane to stabilize against attack on aluminum. Optionally, 5-10%, by volume, acetone is added to the total composition to improve solubility if necessary.

10 All of the embodiments of the present invention may interchangeably use any of the other non-VOC solvents listed above.

The invention has been described with reference to the preferred embodiments. Obviously, modifications and alterations will occur to others upon a reading and understanding of this specification. It is intended to include all such modifications and alterations insofar as they come within the scope of the appended claims or the equivalents thereof.

Having thus described the invention, it is claimed:

1. A solvent-resin composition having generally zero volatile organic compounds (VOCs), the composition consisting essentially of a resin component and a solvent component, the solvent component being 5-95% by total volume of the solvent-resin composition, the solvent component being one or more of the zero-VOC solvents selected from the group consisting of:
- 5 1) chlorobromomethane;
 2) 1-bromopropane;
 3) methyl acetate;
 4) n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);
10 5) t-butyl acetate;
 6) perchloroethylene;
 7) benzotrifluoride;
 8) parachlorobenzotrifluoride
15 9) acetone;
 10) 1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane
 11) dimethoxymethane;
 12) 1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-butane;
20 13) 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
 14) 1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluorobutane;
 15) 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
25 16) methylene chloride; and,
 17) technical white oils (mineral oils).

- 30 2. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the solvent component is present in the amount 40-95% by total volume of the composition.

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3. The composition according to claim 2 for use as an adhesive wherein the solvent component is present in the amount 30%-80% by total volume of the composition.

4. The composition according to claim 2 for use as an ink wherein the solvent component is present in the amount 70%-95% by total volume of the composition.

5. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the solvent component is present in the amount 10-90%, by total volume of the composition, and a portion of the solvent component is selected from the group consisting of:

chlorobromomethane;
1-bromopropane;
methyl acetate;
n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);
10 t-butyl acetate;
perchloroethylene;
benzotrifluoride;
parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
acetone;
15 1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane;
dimethoxymethane; and/or
methylene chloride.

6. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the resin component includes methyl acetate, wherein the solvent component is present in the amount 10-95% by total volume, and wherein at least a portion of the solvent 5 component is selected from the group consisting of:

chlorobromomethane;
1-bromopropane;
n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);
t-butyl acetate;
10 perchloroethylene;

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benzotrifluoride;
parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
acetone;
1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane;
dimethoxymethane;
1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-
butane;
2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-
heptafluoropropane;
1 - ethoxy - 1 , 1 , 2 , 2 , 3 , 3 , 4 , 4 -
nonafluorobutane; and,
2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-
heptafluoropropane.

7. The composition according to claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the solvent component, expressed in terms of % by total volume of the at least a portion of the solvent component, is selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) 10-90% benzotrifluoride and 10-90% of one or more of the solvents:
 - (a) 1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-butane;
 - (b) 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
 - (c) 1 - ethoxy - 1 , 1 , 2 , 2 , 3 , 3 , 4 , 4 - nonafluorobutane;
 - (d) 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
 - (e) perchloroethylene;
 - (f) 1-bromopropane;
 - (g) acetone;
 - (h) n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₆);
 - (i) t-buyl acetate (C₁₂-C₁₆); and,
 - (j) parachlorobenzotrifluoride;

- (2) 5-20% benzotrifluoride and 80-95% 1-bromopropane;

(3) 10-90% acetone and 10-90% n-alkane(C12-C18);

(4) 10-90% 1-bromopropane and 10-90% of one or more of:

 - (a) chlorobromomethane; and,
 - (b) n-alkane (C12-C18);

(5) 10-90% parachlorobenzotrifluoride and 10-90% of one or more of:

 - (a) 1-bromopropane;
 - (b) chlorobromomethane;
 - (c) t-butyl acetate; and,
 - (d) n-alkane (C12-C18);

(6) 10-90% 1,2-dichloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane and 10-90% of one or more of:

 - 1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-butane;
 - 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
 - 1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluorobutane;
 - and,
 - 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane;
 - 1-bromopropane
 - acetone;
 - benzotrifluoride; and,
 - methyl acetate.

8. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the solvent component consists essentially of 10-90% methylene chloride and 10-90% of one or more of the solvents selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 chlorobromomethane;
1-bromopropane;
methyl acetate;
n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);
t-butyl acetate;

10 perchloroethylene;
benzotrifluoride;
parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
acetone;
1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane; and,
15 dimethoxymethane.

9. The composition according to claim 1 for use as an adhesive wherein the solvent component is 40-90% by total volume of the composition of 1-bromopropane.

10. The composition according to claim 1 for use as a blowing agent wherein the solvent component consists essentially of:

99-99.98%, by total volume of the solvent component, 1,2-dichloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane and 0.01-0.5%, by total volume of the solvent component, alpha-methyl styrene to inhibit polymerization.

11. The composition according to claim 1 further consisting essentially of approximately 40-95%, by total volume of the composition, 1-bromopropane, and approximately 5-60% of one or more of resins selected from the group of acrylic, epoxy, urethane, nitrocellulose, styrene, polyvinyl chloride and polychloroprene.

12. The composition according to claim 11 further consisting essentially of approximately 70-95%, by total volume of the composition, 1-bromopropane, and approximately 5-30% of one or more of resins selected from the group of acrylic, epoxy, urethane, nitrocellulose, styrene, polyvinyl chloride and polychloroprene.

13. The composition according to claim 1 further consisting essentially of approximately 50-90%, by volume,

1-bromopropane, and 10-30% of one or more of resins selected from the group of acrylic polymer and urethane polymer.

14. The composition according to claim 1 further consisting essentially of approximately 45-85%, by volume, of 1-bromopropane, and 10-30% of acrylic polymer or urethane polymer, and 5-10%, by volume, acetone to improve solubility if necessary.

15. The composition according to claim 1 further consisting essentially of approximately 40-90%, by total volume of the composition, of 1-bromopropane, approximately 5-35% of a hydrocarbon resin, and approximately 5-25% of a resin, at least a portion of the resin being selected from the group of styrene-butadiene, polychloroprene, polyvinyl chloride, acrylic, epoxy, urethane, nitrocellulose, or styrene.

16. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the portion of the hydrocarbon resin is selected from the group of olefin, rosin ester and terpene.

17. The composition according to claim 1 further consisting essentially of approximately:
70-90%, by volume, 1,2-dichloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane;
9-29% dimethoxymethane; and,
0.5% butylene oxide and 0.5% nitromethane to stabilize the composition.

18. The composition according to claim 17 wherein approximately 5-10% by volume acetone is added to the composition to improve solubility as necessary.

19. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the solvent component, expressed in terms of % by total volume of the composition, consists essentially of 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% of one or more solvents selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);
- (2) methyl acetate;
- (3) t-butyl acetate;
- (4) benzotrifluoride;
- 10 (5) acetone;
- (6) parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
- (7) parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
- (8) perchloroethylene; and,
- (9) methylene chloride; and,
- 15 (10) a mixture of methylene chloride, acetone, t-butyl acetate, methyl acetate and perchloroethylene

20. The composition according to claim 19 wherein the solvent component, expressed in terms of % by total volume of the composition, consists essentially of 1-20% technical white oil and 10-90% of one or more of: 5 methylene chloride; acetone; t-butyl acetate; methyl acetate; and, perchloroethylene

21. A resin-solvent composition for use as an adhesive comprising approximately:

10 40-90%, by total volume of the composition, of one or more of 1-bromopropane and benzotrifluoride, 5-35% of a hydrocarbon resin as a tackifier, and 5-25% of a resin, at least a portion of the resin being selected from the group of styrene-butadiene, polychloroprene, polyvinyl chloride, acrylic, epoxy, 15 urethane, nitrocellulose, and styrene.

22. The composition according to claim 21 wherein at least a portion of the hydrocarbon resin is selected from the group of olefin, rosin ester and terpene.

23. A composition for use as a blowing agent in the manufacture of resin foams, the composition comprising approximately, by total weight of the composition:

5 50-70% polyether triol;

and toluene diisocyanate; 20-40% of one or more of toluene diisocyanate and toluene disocyanurate;

0-5% catalyst;

0-5% surfactant;

0-10% water; and,

10 2-15% of one or more of: 1-bromopropane; chlorobromomethane; 1,2-dichloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane.

24. The composition according to claim 23 wherein: the polyether triol is present in the amount 60-65%;

5 the one or more of toluene diisocyanate and toluene disocyanurate is present in the amount of 30-33%; the water is present in the amount of 1-2%; the catalyst is present in the amount of 0.09-2%;

10 the surfactant is present in the amount of 0.3-1.5%; and,

the one or more of 1-bromopropane and chlorobromomethane is present in the amount of 2.4-6.1%.

25. A cleaning composition having generally zero volatile organic compounds (VOCs), the composition consisting essentially of one or more of the zero-VOC solvents selected from the group consisting of:

5 chlorobromomethane;

1-bromopropane;

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10 n-alkane (C12-C18);
 t-butyl acetate;
 perchloroethylene;
 benzotrifluoride;
 parachlorobenzotrifluoride;
 acetone;
 1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane;
 dimethoxymethane;
15 1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-
 butane;
 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-
 heptafluoropropane;
20 1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-
 nonafluorobutane; and,
 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-
 heptafluoropropane.

26. The cleaning composition of claim 25 wherein the one or more solvents, expressed in terms of total volume of the composition, is selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 (1) 10-90% benzotrifluoride and 10-90% of one or
 more of the solvents:
 (a) 1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-
 butane;
 (b) 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-
 heptafluoropropane;
10 (c) 1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-
 nonafluorobutane;
 (d) 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-
 heptafluoropropane;
15 (e) perchloroethylene;
 (f) 1-bromopropane;
 (g) acetone;
 (h) n-alkane (C12-C16);
 (i) t-butyl acetate (C12-C16); and,

20 (j) parachlorobenzotrifluoride;

(2) 5-20% benzotrifluoride and 80-95% 1-

bromopropane;

(3) 10-90% acetone and 10-90% n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);

(4) 10-90% 1-bromopropane and 10-90% of one or more
of:

(a) chlorobromomethane; and,

(b) n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);

25 (5) 10-90% parachlorobenzotrifluoride and 10-90% of
one or more of:

(a) 1-bromopropane;

(b) chlorobromomethane;

(c) t-butyl acetate; and,

(d) n-alkane (C₁₂-C₁₈);

30 (6) 10-90% 1,2-dichloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane and
10-90% of one or more of:
1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-butane;
2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3,
heptafluoropropane;
1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluorobutane;
and,
40 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3,
heptafluoropropane;
1-bromopropane
acetone;
benzotrifluoride; and,
45 methyl acetate.

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Abstract

Environmentally-safer resin-solvent compositions are provided which are generally free of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The solvent and resin-solvent compositions may replace high-VOC hydrocarbon solvents for use in inks, coatings, adhesives and the like. These novel compositions are negligibly reactive with hydroxyl radicals and therefore are able to reach higher into the atmosphere before decomposing.

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DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first, and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

ZERO VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND COMPOSITIONS BASED UPON ORGANIC SOLVENTS WHICH ARE NEGLIGIBLY REACTIVE WITH HYDROXYL RADICAL AND DO NOT CONTRIBUTE APPRECIABLY TO THE FORMATION OF GROUND BASED OZONE

the specification of which is being filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office herewith.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

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THE FORMATION OF GROUND BASED OZONE

Serial Number 60/053,073
Filed July 18, 1997

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Not applicable.

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